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Norwich, Wednesday, May 25, 1910.

HEALTH-MENACING POSTAGE STAMPS.

A British scientist is alarmed about the germs he has found upon the everyday postage stamp, organisms which bode the lappers and lickers of stamps no good. A London paper says:

People often buy single stamps at the postoffice and touch them with their dirty hands upon the counter; organisms are thus left on the counter for the next customer to take up. Always refrain from licking your stamps, therefore.

The stamps of stamps were submitted to incubator treatment; and a few hours later both sets of stamps were found to bear noxious organisms, but those previously exposed to moist air contained five times as many as the others. The examination indicated that typhoid and scarlet fever were the diseases most liable to be communicated by stamps, although in the gum were also found staphylococci, or grape-like clusters of bacteria, which under favorable conditions might cause blood poisoning.

And these germs are found in the air and on the human breath and whiskers and hands, and the mortality holds to its average and none of us have been afraid. Don't be frightened now. Germs appear to be just as natural to the air as spores and pollen and other microscopic objects over which we have no control, and of which we have little knowledge.

COMET WEATHER.

Some people are attributing the unseasonable weather to the comet, and if we did not have just such weather when no comet is swooping in the blazing distance, one might be warranted in taking some stock in the statement.

The weather has been most unpropitious for the comet-grazers, as it has been for the agriculturists, and the moonlight nights and foggy and hazy weather here in New England have obscured the sky so that those who desire to see this traveler of twenty-three centuries have found little satisfaction for their endeavor to get good views of it. There has been no chance to see it in the west since it swept the earth with its tail, but it is hoped that the weather will prove more favorable soon, and that ample opportunity to see, so far as science knows, the most celebrated comet of this celestial system.

It was surprising that there was so much comet-fear in this region. Well-known people, as well as the astronomers who have the subject under consideration, felt no apprehension, for the divine law which has kept this comet in motion for over twenty thousand years has not changed, and it is as true to its orbit as are scores of other comets. Comets disappear from the skies without doing any damage to earth, and this one may. There is no hit or miss business about the comets of the sky, for under the guidance of the laws which govern the universe in their places and set in motion about them the innumerable worlds which excite the wonder of man.

There is no evidence that these comets affect anything in the world's atmosphere other than its magnetic currents, and this is so slight as to have no appreciable effect.

Those who have trembled in fear because of what they imagined might happen, have had their agitation for nothing, and it is to be hoped that they have been completely cured of the horrors of ignorance by the enlightenment which good order and dependable law has spread abroad.

DECHURCHED DISTRICTS.

This is what they have in New Hampshire, and doubtless have in all other states. This is a big country and its religious needs are sufficient to attract our attention and absorb all our loose change. The following paragraph appeared in the Boston Transcript the other day:

"Dechurching districts" is a term employed in a report to the recent conference of Congregational churches of New Hampshire descriptive of localities where the gospel is not preached. There are discoverable in that state, as we learn from the proceedings of the conference, occasional districts having ten to twenty families which are entirely outside church and religious influences. These are at such distances from any active church as to make visits from its pastors impracticable. The committee which considered this field waiting for the missionaries recommended 'intensive culture' to be supplemented during the winter months by stated visits at arranged intervals. This picture of the churchless condition of communities remote from established pulpits is an effective plea for diverting to them a portion of the large stream of contributions that flow toward the 'heathen' of Asia and Africa.

This revelation is worthy the sincere consideration of those who are striving to evangelize the world, for we certainly should rescue from heathenism those of our own household.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

They say that honesty in politics does truly pay—in Canada.

The northwest has had another snow storm, but it is expecting spring to arrive soon.

The comet's tail acts like an electric spark. Now you see it, and now you don't.

The Massachusetts senate does not approve of the income tax amendment of the constitution.

George V. is said to be an early riser. He likes to see the early bird catch the early worm, perhaps.

In the expulsion of the Jews, Russia has a way of confiscating their property which would become a thief.

It would not be strange if Jeffries and Johnson were each wondering who would see the more stars on the Fourth.

As time wears on, Speaker Cannon does not seem to warm up toward the insurgents. They are on the polar side of him to stay.

Mrs. Ella Young, superintendent of the Chicago schools, is to be made an LL.D. by the University of Illinois in June. She deserves it.

The Ballinger faction was economical in the use of money, but its extravagance in the use of words has just amazed the nation.

A young man who had been given the third degree for fifty-three hours confessed to everything and then hanged himself in his cell.

The Sugar trust does not appear to have rid itself of its dishonest increment when it fired 130 employees and thanked God it was purified.

The New York legislature adjourns on Friday; but let us hope that it will not try to imitate the high jinks of the legislature of New Jersey.

Releasing a man from prison to relieve his conscience is not a regular thing, but in the case of the Sugar trust it seems to be commendable.

It was an ancient philosopher who said "if thou wouldst marry well, marry thine equal." The women are not as careful about this as they should be.

It should be remembered that the man who doesn't put out money for firecrackers for the boys cannot make them think he is a patriot or the son of a patriot.

Size Nothing to Quality.

Some of the Hartford newspapers are excited because they think they have discovered that the census returns do not meet expectations. They want an independent census now, taken by the police. If the job of government census taking has been bungled the fact should, of course, be known. But we do not consider it of much importance if the Capitol City drops some thousands below the figure she fondly hoped to attain. Merely growing big is not particularly edifying. It is much more important that Hartford should grow in other directions, and she is steadily doing that. She has become a most attractive city. Many of her private and public buildings are beautiful. Her parks are the admiration of all; her business enterprise is remarkable; her newspapers are in the front rank; her schools are among the best.

Now if she will improve and beautify her waterfront and do her part in redeeming the Connecticut river, we will cheerfully forgive her if she does not pass the one hundred thousand population mark in years.—Bridge Press.

Gondolas are being displaced by motor boats on the main canal of Venice, but they are still in the 124

THE BULLETIN'S DAILY STORY

TELLING HER

"I don't know why it is," said Mrs. Cumbuck, dejectedly, taking a seat in Mrs. Fairweather's kitchen. My husband loves fried chicken, and every time I place it on the table he grumbles shamefully and tells me how his mother used to do it. I'd give a good deal to know how his mother did it."

"There's no secret about frying a chicken," replied Mrs. Fairweather. "All men are like your husband when it comes to their favorite dishes. Mr. Fairweather is always talking about his mother's mince pies. Now, I don't take a back seat for any woman when it comes to making mince pies, and if his mother had any sporting blood in her she would accept a challenge. I have made several times and meet me in a pie-baking contest for the championship of our family. She lives in Connecticut, and I have invited her here a dozen times, so I could show her what mince pies really are, but she always sidesteps, and her son still insists that she is the grand worthy supreme matron of all pie makers."

"No, she isn't," replied Mrs. Cumbuck. "If it'll be any help to you, I'll tell you how I do it, and it's the old-fashioned way. A chicken weighing about three pounds is the best. Mrs. Gooseworthy was in here yesterday and we had an argument about that very thing. Mrs. Gooseworthy said a chicken for frying shouldn't weigh more than two pounds, but she said it just to be contrary. I never saw such a woman. Her delight is in contradicting people. If you saw her that the sun rises in the east she would insist that it rises in the northwest."

"She has the impudence to come into my own house and dispute what I say about frying chickens. Everybody in the neighborhood knows her cooking is so bad that her husband gets most of his meals at the restaurants downtown. She said that a chicken should not be cooked the same day it is killed, but should be kept on ice over night. Such nonsense!"

"A chicken should always be cooked the day it is killed. Remember that, Mrs. Cumbuck. Poetry loses a great deal of its delicate flavor if it has to wait."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

An Invention Needed.

Mr. Editor: If I were a long-legged man I should hold my peace, but I am not, and hence I have a grievance, for the double-open cars now being run in this city are a high-strain for me, as they must be for hundreds of others. I have always been a high-strain, but I never could climb for a cent. If a light, portable ladder could be invented which would aid short-legged men, women and children to get into these new cars it would be a great convenience. Why, I took three men to get a little, fat woman upon one of these cars the other day. We like good cars, but to have the running board a reach and a jump for long-legged humans, puts the short-leggers in danger of serious injury. These cars should be a little lower.

A SHORT-LEGGED MAN.
Norwich, May 23, 1910.

A Statement by Special Agent Downes.

Mr. Editor: Your paper of Tuesday would give the public to understand that a great many had been skipped in the census recently taken in Norwich, and I think an explanation proper, as the article referred to reflects on me as special agent, and my duties were to see that the enumerators did their work properly and covered all the territory allotted to them.

Dr. Stark wrote me that he feared Slater avenue was skipped, but the enumerator had not got to it at that time, and it was done long before the enumeration closed, and before Church or Union streets.

Many rumors of skips have been reported to me, and I found in every case but two that the lady of the house had given the information, but had not told the other members of the enumerator's visit. I have only sent four names to Professor Bailey since the enumeration closed, and have been complimented on the work done in Norwich and New London. Not a single paper as yet has been returned for correction, and I doubt if any place the size of Norwich or New London will show better results in the finished work or in people's willingness to be more correct. I think very few. Another word, the people will not be surprised when the general results are published if they would take a trip through the village and other sections and count the empty tenements; also reflect on the number of families who have left Norwich.

THE HORSE'S PRAYER.

To Thee, My Master, I offer my prayer. Feed me, water and care for me, and when the day's work is done, provide me with shelter, a clean, dry bed, and a stall wide enough for me to lie down in comfort.

Always be kind to me. Talk to me. Your voice often means as much to me as the reins. Pet me sometimes, that I may serve you the more gladly, and learn to love you. Do not jerk the reins, and do not whip me when going up hill. Never strike, beat or kick me when I do not understand what you want, but give me a chance to understand you. Watch me, and if I fall to do your bidding, see if something is not wrong with my harness or feet.

Do not check me so that I cannot have the free use of my head. If you insist that I wear blinders, so that I cannot see behind me, as it was intended I should, I pray you be careful that the blinders stand well out from my eyes.

Do not overload me, or hitch me when water will drip on me. Keep me well shod. Examine my teeth when I do not eat; I may have an ulcerated tooth, and that, you know, is very painful. Do not let my head in an unnatural position, or take away my best defense against flies and mosquitoes by cutting off my tail.

I cannot tell you when I am thirsty, so give me cool, clean water often. Save me by all means in your power, from that fatal disease—the glanders. I cannot tell you in words, when I am sick; so watch me, that by signs you may know my condition. Give me all possible shelter from the hot sun, and

ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.

It was thought in March that an adjournment of congress might be reached by the last of May, but we are now past the middle of the month and no one pretends to know when the session will end.

The minority leader of the house, Champ Clark of Missouri, feels quite positive that congress will be doing business in Washington on July 15th, and this appears to be the date fixed upon by the insurgents; but no sound comes from the ruling party of congress. Speaker Crane is quite positive that congress will adjourn on July 15th when an adjournment will take place.

What Senator Crane doesn't think is not much of an indication of what is to be expected. The situation certainly indicates that congress is not just now near to adjournment and that it will be some weeks before the work will be finished.

IS BURBANK A FAKER?

If Luther Burbank, the celebrated horticulturist, was guilty of writing or approving a thousand and one claims that have been made in his name, he ought to be regarded as a faker; but it is questionable whether he ever claimed to be a creator of anything—whether he has put the exaggerated value upon his work which his boomers have.

There are thousands of men experimenting in horticulture just as Mr. Burbank is, and they are promoting horticulture by improving plants by cross fertilization and in other ways, and doing the work of a great service.

Luther Burbank is in no way aggressive, but since he has been commercially boomed he has many opponents. One of the most prominent of these is E. M. East, a professor of Howard, Mo., who said the other day, in a lecture at Boston:

"The 'wonderberry,' which Luther Burbank claimed to have evolved as a new species, is in reality an old species well known to botanists and horticulturists. There was nothing new about it, yet Burbank and his 'wonderberry' were the recipients of innumerable press notices."

"The 'white blackberry' was also widely proclaimed as a new species, yet it was as old as the hills and known all through Europe. Furthermore, it was of no particular value."

Professor East called attention to the fact that Dr. Leaming has succeeded in evolving a species of corn which may result in increasing the national corn crop 10 per cent, and expressed the opinion that he had done more for the welfare of the people than Luther Burbank.

There is no question of Burbank's greatness in his special field, but there are others, and it is not time yet to determine who is of most use to the world.

The Boston Record calls attention to the fact that President Mellen's "wage" was reduced \$10,000, and it has not since been restored to \$50,000. Mr. Mellen refused an offer of the directors to make it \$100,000. This practically duplicates the case of Theodore W. Yail, says The Record on assuming the presidency of American Telephone in 1906; he took a \$100,000 position. But as he at once suggested this figure was reduced to \$75,000. It has not since been advanced.

The poor are always with us, and if the country administrators of New York are truly distressed, will never find anything worse than has befallen them in this world.

Governor Collins discovers that he is a statutory felon—a man without a country—and that he cannot vote until he has been restored to citizenship by the president.

The first corpse that has had on his hands may not prove to be the worst.

Happy thought for today: It is man who makes a scarecrow of comets, not God.

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